

means for searching;

means for building a requisition that uses data obtained from said database relating to selected matching items on said order list;

means for processing said requisition to generate purchase orders for said selected matching items.

2 81. The electronic sourcing system according to claim 80, wherein the means for searching comprises:

means for searching the database for segments of data relating to items associated with a vendor that contain vendor items that match the product information for said at least one desired item;

means for generating a hit list of such vendor segments; and

means for selectively viewing the vendor segments identified for said hit list, and

wherein the means for generating an order list comprises means for selecting desired items from a vendor segment identified by said hit list.

3 82. The electronic sourcing system according to claim 80, wherein the means for entering product information fully describes at least one desired item.

4 83. The electronic sourcing system according to claim 80, further comprising means for determining the applicable price of a selected matching item.

5 84. The electronic sourcing system according to claim 80, further comprising means for determining whether a selected matching item is available in inventory.--